



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Monday
12 April 1982

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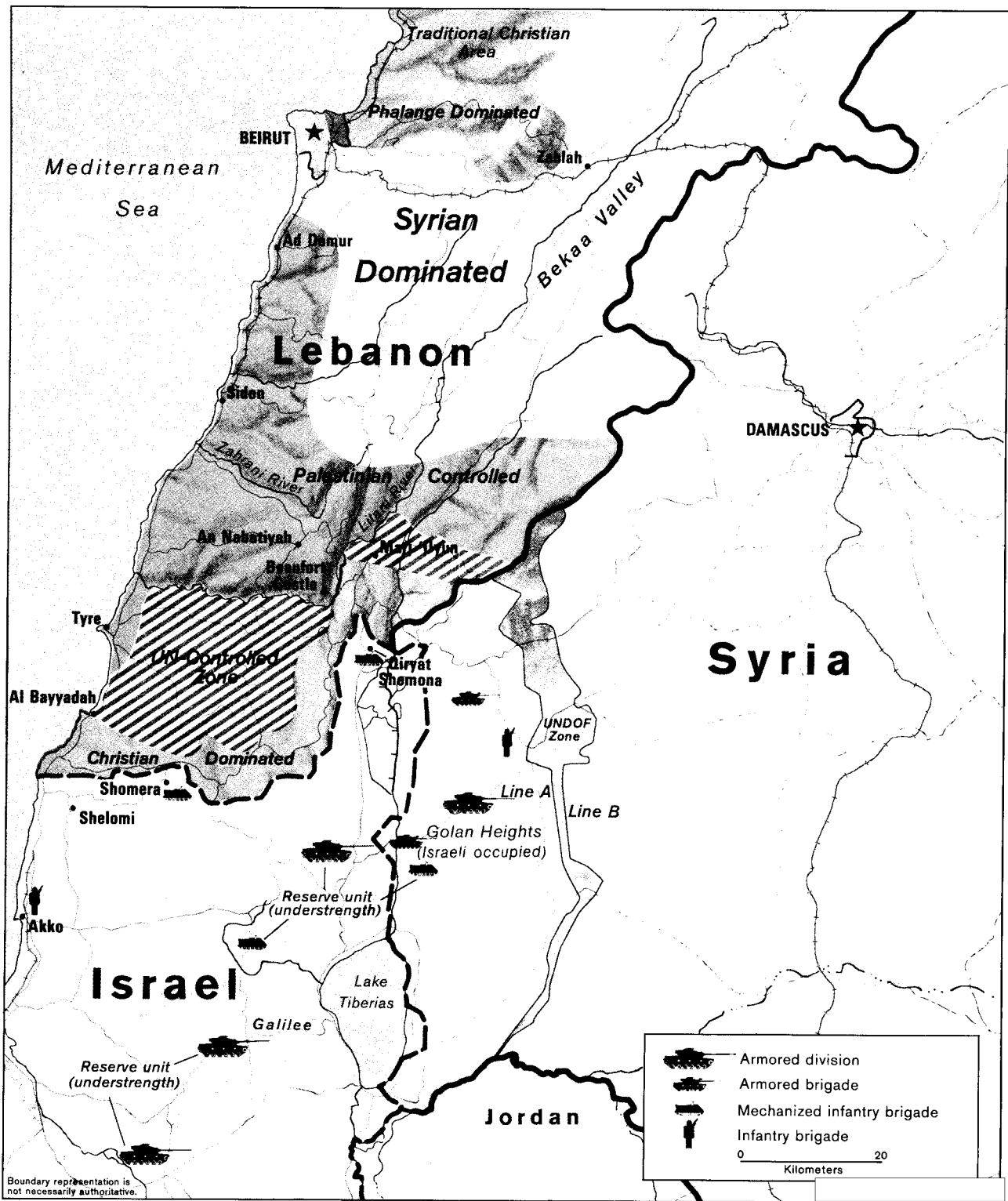
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② ISRAEL-LEBANON: Preparations for Hostilities

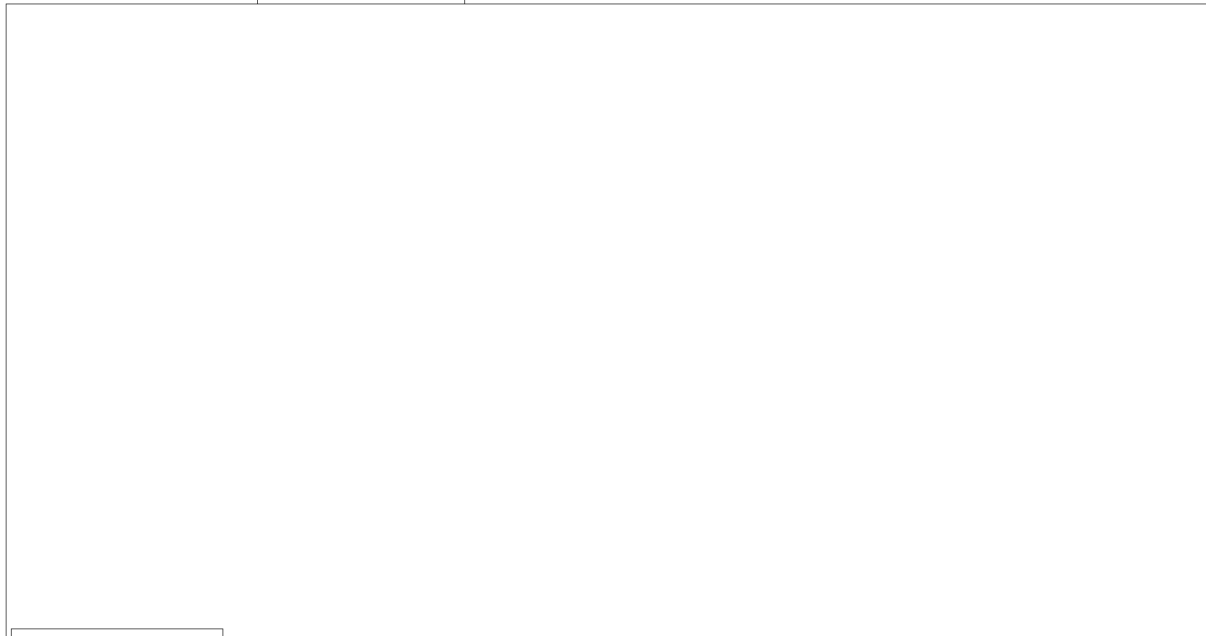
Israeli and Palestinian forces are poised for possible hostilities in Lebanon, although, at the cabinet meeting held yesterday, Israel did not decide to take action against the Palestinians.

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1/2 Israeli forces in the north reportedly continued their preparations yesterday for possible military action in Lebanon. Military activity was intense in the Qiryat Shemona area of the northeastern Galilee and on the Golan Heights.

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9 A small Syrian military convoy was sighted yesterday moving toward Lebanon by the US defense attache in Damascus.

6 Israel's cabinet met in full session yesterday, reportedly to discuss relations with Egypt, recent terrorist incidents, and the cease-fire in Lebanon. In a three-hour meeting with US Ambassador Lewis yesterday, Begin gave assurances that the Israeli cabinet had made no decision to invade Lebanon.

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Israel claims that two Palestinian terrorists were apprehended on Friday, infiltrating from Jordan to the occupied West Bank near the same site where a group of terrorists were captured in late January. [redacted]

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10/ [redacted] if the terrorists had succeeded in their mission and killed some Israelis, Israel would have been forced to retaliate in Lebanon. 11/ The official indicated, however, that the type of military action the Israelis have in mind is a small, retaliatory raid rather than a large-scale invasion of Lebanon. [redacted]

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12/ Comment: Despite reassurances by the Israeli Government that no decision has yet been reached to take military action in Lebanon, Israel's forces are now at the highest level of alert since the crisis last summer over the Syrian missiles in Lebanon. Israeli forces in the north, now estimated to include some 24,000 troops, could move into Lebanon with no advance notice and could be reinforced by an additional 40,000 reservists from Israel's Northern Command in 24 to 48 hours. Within 72 hours, the entire Israeli Defense Force strength of 435,000 could be mobilized, but this is not likely to occur short of an all-out war. [redacted]

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The movement of the Syrian convoy could indicate that Syria is increasing its forces in Lebanon. [redacted]

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11/ Israel apparently is prepared to take action against the Palestinians in the event another terrorist incident results in the death of Israelis. A renewal of disturbances in the occupied West Bank and Gaza, or in Arab-populated villages of Israel--such as the shooting incident in old Jerusalem in which two tourists were killed and several others wounded--could divert Israel's focus from Lebanon by tying down some of its troops in security duties. [redacted]

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